

HOUSE BILL 2277

By Boyer

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 39, Chapter 13, Part 1 and Section 39-16-515, to enact the "Laser Safety Act of 2000".

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 39, Chapter 13, Part 1, is amended by adding the following as a new section:

Section 39-13-111.

(a) This section shall be known and may be cited as the "Laser Safety Act of 2000."

(b) As used in this section:

(1) "Laser" means any device that projects a beam or point of light by means of light amplification by stimulated emissions of radiation.

(2) "Law enforcement officer" means a police officer; peace officer; sheriff; sheriff's deputy; corrections officer; parole officer; judge; magistrate; or, any employee of a governmental agency who is authorized by law to engage in the investigation, arrest or prosecution of,

or to supervise the incarceration of any person for any violation of law, and has statutory powers of arrest.

(3) "Firefighter" means any fire fighter or other employee of a fire department, county fire marshal's office, county fire prevention bureau, or fire protection district who is performing such official duties.

(4) "Bus driver" means any school bus driver employed by a school district or private company while the driver is performing such official duties; or a transit operator or driver of a public or private transit company while that person is performing such official duties.

(c)

(1) Any person who knowingly projects a laser in order to intimidate, threaten or debilitate on or at a law enforcement officer, firefighter or bus driver without that person's consent while they are acting within the scope of such duties commits a Class E felony.

(2) A second or subsequent violation of subpart (1) of this subsection is a Class D felony.

(3) Any person who intentionally projects a laser on or at a person other than those persons described in subpart (1) of this subsection, who is operating a motor vehicle at the time, causing an impairment of the safety or operation of the motor vehicle commits a Class A misdemeanor.

(4) Any person who knowingly projects a laser at a person in order to intimidate, threaten or debilitate that person commits a Class A misdemeanor.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 39-16-515, is amended by deleting the section in its entirety.

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2000, the public welfare requiring it.

